

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-1206
Frederick House
18429 Middletown Road
Parkton, Baltimore County
ca. 1850
Private

The property on which the circa 1850 single-family dwelling, known today as the Frederick House, was historically referred to as Merryman's Lookout. Located at 18429 Middletown Road, the property is set about a quarter of a mile from the major transportation corridor known as York Road in the town of Parkton, a mid-19th century railroad crossroads in the northern region of Baltimore County. This tract was purchased by the Frederick family in 1849, and ultimately conveyed to the Ensor family in 1911. A farming and dairy family, the Ensors have owned 77 acres of the original 166-acre Merryman's Lookout tract for nearly ninety years.

This three-bay wide Gothic Revival style dwelling is two-and-a-half stories in height. Virtually unaltered, the stone structure presents an L-shaped plan with a central entry. The rough-cut limestone is randomly laid with larger rocks placed to appear as lintels over the window openings and quoins on the corners of the main block. The building is located at the north side of Middletown Road, surrounded by rolling agricultural fields with various outbuildings to the east and south. The house rests upon a solid stone foundation that is partially exposed as the structure is constructed within the slope of the land. The cross gable roof, now clad with asphalt shingles, has a shallow pitch. This pitch is dramatically contrasted by the steeply pitched center gable that marks the primary façade, and provides the strongest stylistic association with the Gothic Revival. The stone construction of the building is contrasted by the wood weatherboard cladding the center gable. Interior end chimneys project from each of the three gable ends. The main entry is covered by a heavily massed wood frame portico with scroll-sawn brackets and square Tuscan posts. A side porch of wood frame runs the depth of the east elevation.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-1206

1. Name of Property

historic Merryman's Lookout; Frederick House (preferred)

other

2. Location

street and number 18429 Middletown Road

not for publication

city, town Parkton

X- vicinity

county Baltimore

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Edna G. and Edward H. Ensor

street and number 801 Falls Road

telephone

city, town Parkton

state Maryland

zip code 21120-9495

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse

tax map and parcel m: 17, p: 150

city, town Towson

liber 7573

folio 507

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
- ☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- ☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- ☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- ☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
- ☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- ☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-1206

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Constructed circa 1850, this three-bay wide Gothic Revival-style dwelling is two-and-a-half stories in height. Virtually unaltered, the stone structure presents an L-shaped plan with a central entry. The rough-cut limestone is randomly laid with larger rocks placed to appear as lintels over the window openings and quoins on the corners of the main block. The building is located at the north side of Middletown Road, surrounded by rolling agricultural fields with various outbuildings to the east and south. The house rests upon a solid stone foundation that is partially exposed as the structure is constructed within the slope of the land. The cross gable roof, now clad with asphalt shingles, has a shallow pitch. This pitch is dramatically contrasted by the steeply pitched center gable that marks the primary façade, and provides the strongest stylistic association with the Gothic Revival. The roof has a slight overhang with a boxed cornice of wood, plain frieze, bedmolding, and molded returns. The roofs of the side porch and rear ell are covered with standing seam metal. The stone construction of the building is contrasted by the wood weatherboard cladding the center gable. Interior end chimneys project from each of the three gable ends. The north and west chimney stacks have been reconstructed, while the east chimney stack retains its original brick corbeling and segmentally arched hood. The main entry is covered by a heavily massed wood frame portico with scroll-sawn brackets and square Tuscan posts. A side porch of wood frame runs the depth of the east elevation.

The primary façade, facing south on Middletown Road, measures three bays wide. The central entry is symmetrically flanked by 6/6 windows with narrow wood sills, square-edged casings, and operable louvered shutters. Large limestone blocks are placed above the window openings to represent lintels. The main entry consists of a single leaf wood door with four panels. The lower panels of the door are square with projecting molding, while the upper panels have a semi-circular arched profile with projecting molding. It is secured by a metal storm door. The opening is flanked by narrow sidelights consisting of a single recessed panel under two fixed lights. A four-light transom crowns the opening. The entry is covered by a heavily massed wood frame portico set upon low stone piers. The flat roof of the portico, which is one bay wide, is supported by thick Tuscan posts and pilasters, each ornamented with scroll-sawn brackets. Balustrades with thick square balusters mark the sides of the portico. The portico is crowned by a wide entablature with a plain frieze, bedmolding and ogee cornice.

The second story of the façade is pierced with three symmetrically placed window openings, each holding 6/6 sash. As with the first story openings, the windows have wood sills, square-edged casings, and louvered shutters. The windows rest at the base of the building's entablature, which acts as a continuous lintel. The central window opening mimics the wide massing of the main entry. Thus, this opening holds a 6/6 sash flanked by very narrow four-light fixed sidelights that are obscured by the operable shutters. The attic level of the building is illuminated by a narrow lancet-arched window opening piercing the center gable. The 4/4 window has three-lights at the top of the upper sash. Finished with narrow square-edged surrounds, the opening has a thin wooden sill.

The east elevation is four bays deep, encompassing the main block of the building and the projecting ell. The slope of the site allows for the northernmost section of the basement to be exposed. Set within the full-width side porch, the basement is entered through a single entry opening in the northern bay, the only portion of the

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foundation not obscured by lattice. The side porch is supported by stone piers with wooden lattice. Entered from the southern end, the wood frame porch has slightly tapered square posts that support the shed roof. Wood balusters with diagonal rails encircle the porch. The roof, presently clad with standing seam metal, is marked by a narrow molded cornice that is largely obscured by metal gutters. The first story of the building is pierced by five openings, alternating 6/6 windows and single entry openings. The window openings all have wood sills, square-edged casings, and operable louvered shutters. The single entries hold paneled wood doors covered by metal storm doors. The lintels are obscured by the roof of the side porch.

The second story of the building has four window openings equally spaced. Each window holds a 6/6 sash with wood sills, square-edged casings, and operable louvered shutters. The two openings in the main block of the building are further accentuated by large limestone blocks that act as lintels, while the two openings in the ell extend to the bedmolding of the entablature. Within the gable end of the main block are two square window openings with 2/2 sash, wood sills, and square-edged casings.

The west elevation of the main block has no openings on the first and second stories. The gable end, like that of the east elevation, is pierced by two small square openings holding 2/2 sash with wood sills and square-edged casings. The ell is symmetrically marked by rectangular-shaped basement window with large stone lintels. The upper stories of this elevation are pierced by 6/6 windows with wood sills and square-edged surrounds. The lintels over the first story openings are machine cut, rather than the rough cut shape of those trimming the main block.

The rear and interior of the dwelling were not accessible for survey. This property was surveyed from the public right-of-way.

Outbuildings

The property presently includes five outbuildings, four of which are historic. Located directly to the north of the dwelling, down the sloping hill beyond the barbed-wire fence, is the wash house. This one-story, one-bay wide building is constructed of random-laid stone with a front gable roof. Indicative of the building type, the wash house has a projecting roof that provides an inset or cut-away porch at the front. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles and supported at the western end, over the porch, by square posts. Each of the side and rear elevations is pierced by small square window openings.

An imposing wood frame German bank barn is set to the east of the primary dwelling, located exceptionally close to Middletown Road. The massive barn is one-and-a-half stories on a full stone foundation. The rectangular structure measures three bays in width and five bays in depth. The stone foundation is pierced by small commercial-style metal windows of six-lights. The upper story, finished with vertical boards, has narrow openings with segmental lintels and wood sills. The openings hold wooden louvers. The gable end of the

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building fronting Middletown Road holds a Palladian-like opening filled with wooden louvers and a 6/6 sash. The gable roof of the structure is clad with asphalt shingles and pierced by a wood frame cupola. The overhang of the bank barn, located on the northwest side of the structure, have been infilled with concrete blocks. The alteration is pierced by six-light fixed windows. A one-story concrete block addition projects from the western corner of the northwest elevation. Covered by a standing seam metal gable roof, the structure is three bays deep and one bay wide. It is pierced by a deeply recessed opening and square six-light windows.

To the west of the barn is what appears to be a carriage house. The modest wood frame structure is clad with board-and-batten siding, set upon a raised stone foundation. The building is two bays square with a gable roof. The slightly overhanging roof, now clad with asphalt shingles, is capped by a louvered cupola. Each elevation of the building is pierced by window openings, holding either 6/6 sash and fixed six-lights. The gable end fronting Middletown Road has a semi-circular arched louvered opening.

On the south side of Middletown Road, directly across the street from the barn and carriage house, is the wood-frame hay barn. The building rests upon a one-story high random-rubble stone foundation, which rises to the upper story on the north elevation. The east and west elevations are pierced by a double-wide opening that provides access to wagons or hay-loading equipment. This building is clad with vertical board siding, and is covered by a gable roof with asphalt shingles. A single-leaf, vertical-board door is located on the west elevation, and each of the gable ends have two six-light windows.

A 1990s prefabricated wood-frame utility shed is located northwest of the house, and features a front-gambrel roof with asphalt shingle cladding.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Significance dates ca. 1850-1950

Architect Unknown

Specific dates ca. 1850

Builder Unknown

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The property on which the circa 1850 single-family dwelling, known today as the Frederick House, was historically referred to as Merryman's Lookout. Located at 18429 Middletown Road, the property is set about a quarter of a mile from the major transportation corridor known as York Road in the town of Parkton, a mid-19th century railroad crossroads in the northern region of Baltimore County. This tract, which included several agricultural outbuildings, was purchased by the Frederick family in 1849, and ultimately conveyed to the Ensor family in 1911. A farming and dairy family, the Ensors have owned 77 acres of the original 166-acre Merryman's Lookout tract for nearly ninety years. The fashionably detailed Gothic Revival style Frederick House is constructed of stone, a building material indigenous to northern Baltimore County. The property, encompassing the main dwelling and historic outbuildings, stands as a prominent example of a rural agricultural farm.

History

Frederick House was constructed in the mid-19th century on a 166-acre tract of land purchased by Morris Frederick in August 1849 from Christopher Bull. The vast rural tract is along Middletown Road, just south of its intersection with Frederick Road. It is located in the seventh district, which was the largest and most populated region of the county in latter part of the 19th century. The area historically consisted of rolling hills, transversed by major transportation corridors. It was supported by the cultivation of wheat, corn, oats, fruit, dairy, and the breeding of cattle.

To the south and northeast, respectively, are the towns of Wiseburg and Parkton, both major railroad stops for the Northern Central Railway. The communities, both located just about twenty-five miles north of Baltimore City, were home to about fifty people in 1881. The village of Wiseburg was established by John Wise, an emigrant from Germany who came to this county about the time of the American Revolution. The community thrived on the production of wrapping paper, which was manufactured at William Wise's paper mill. Further to the northeast, Parkton quickly became one of the principal shipping points between Baltimore and the Pennsylvania line. Surrounded by rural agricultural farms devoted primarily to dairy production, the small village was bisected by the York Turnpike. The intersection of this major transportation route with that of the

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railroad rendered the small town as the center of trade for a ten mile radius.

Constructed of stone, the L-shaped building reflects the building traditions of Baltimore County in the middle part of the 19th century. This single-family dwelling utilizes its construction material, specifically the stone, to provide ornamentation in the form of lintels over the window openings and quoins at the corners of the main block. Stylistic interpretations popular during this period reflect the Gothic Revival with a steeply pointed center gable with a lancet arched window, scroll-sawn brackets, and wide entablatures with narrow moldings. The rural farmhouse is supported by a late 19th century German bank barn, carriage house, wash house, and drive-through hay barn. The buildings, surrounded by sloping farmland edged with mature trees, are set extremely close to Middletown Road.

Although little is known of the Frederick family, deeds of conveyance and historic maps of the area indicate the Merryman's Lookout tract was improved and occupied by members of the family as early as 1850. Morris and Miranda Frederick conveyed the land in December 1857 to John T. and George Frederick for \$6,000. In July 1863, John T. and George Frederick conveyed the 166 acres at Merryman's Lookout back Morris Frederick for \$4,000. Nearly ten years later, in February 1872, Morris and his wife Miranda Frederick transferred 77 acres back to George Frederick for \$500. Historic maps from this period, including the 1877 *Atlas of Baltimore County* by G.M. Hopkins, record James N. Frederick was occupying the property. James Frederick, a prominent resident of the community, served as county commissioner in 1895.

In February 1911, the Frederick family sold the property on Middletown Road for \$5,000 to Clifton T. Ensor. Ensor, whose family lived in the area surrounding Parkton, owned the property until his death in 1956. Historic maps produced in 1915, however, indicate J.N. Frederick lived on the property. With the death of Ensor, title to the Frederick House was transferred by will to Edward H. Ensor and his wife, Edna G. Ensor. The Ensors have owned the property, which consists today of six parcels totaling 105 acres, for nearly fifty years.

Chain of Title:

August 14, 1849:	Christopher Bull to Morris Frederick Land Records of Baltimore County Liber AWB 440 Folio 336
December 28, 1857:	Morris and Miranda Frederick to John T. and George Frederick Land Records of Baltimore County Liber HMF 20 Folio 461
July 10, 1863:	John T. and George Frederick to Morris Frederick

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Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 38 Folio 310

February 8, 1872: Miranda and Morris Frederick to George Frederick
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 74 Folio 11

February 24, 1911: Frances D. and George Frederick to Clifton T. Ensor
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 375 Folio 66

February 8, 1956: Clifton T. Ensor to Edward H. Ensor
Will Records of Baltimore County
Liber Folio

February 19, 1957: Edna G. and Edward H. Ensor to Ruth A. Pearce
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 3113 Folio 498

February 19, 1957: Ruth A. Pearce to Edna G. and Edward H. Ensor
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 3113 Folio 501

June 9, 1987: Edna F. and Edward H. Ensor to Edna G. and Edward H. Ensor
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 7573 Folio 507

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Frederick House, 18429 Middletown Road, Parkton, MD
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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition
Industrial/Urban Dominance
Modern Period

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning
Agriculture

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Agricultural Outbuilding

Known Design Source: Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-1206

Brooks, Neal A. and Rockel, Eric G. *A History of Baltimore County*. Towson, Maryland: Townson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day*, Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area	<u>185.55 Acres</u>	
Acreage surveyed	<u>105.34 Acres</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>New Freedom, MD-PA</u>	Quadrangle scale <u>1:24,000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property known as Frederick House is located at 18429 Middletown Road in Parkton, Maryland as noted on Tax Map 17, Parcel 150. The primary dwelling has been associated with this site since the middle part of the 19th century.

11. Form Prepared by

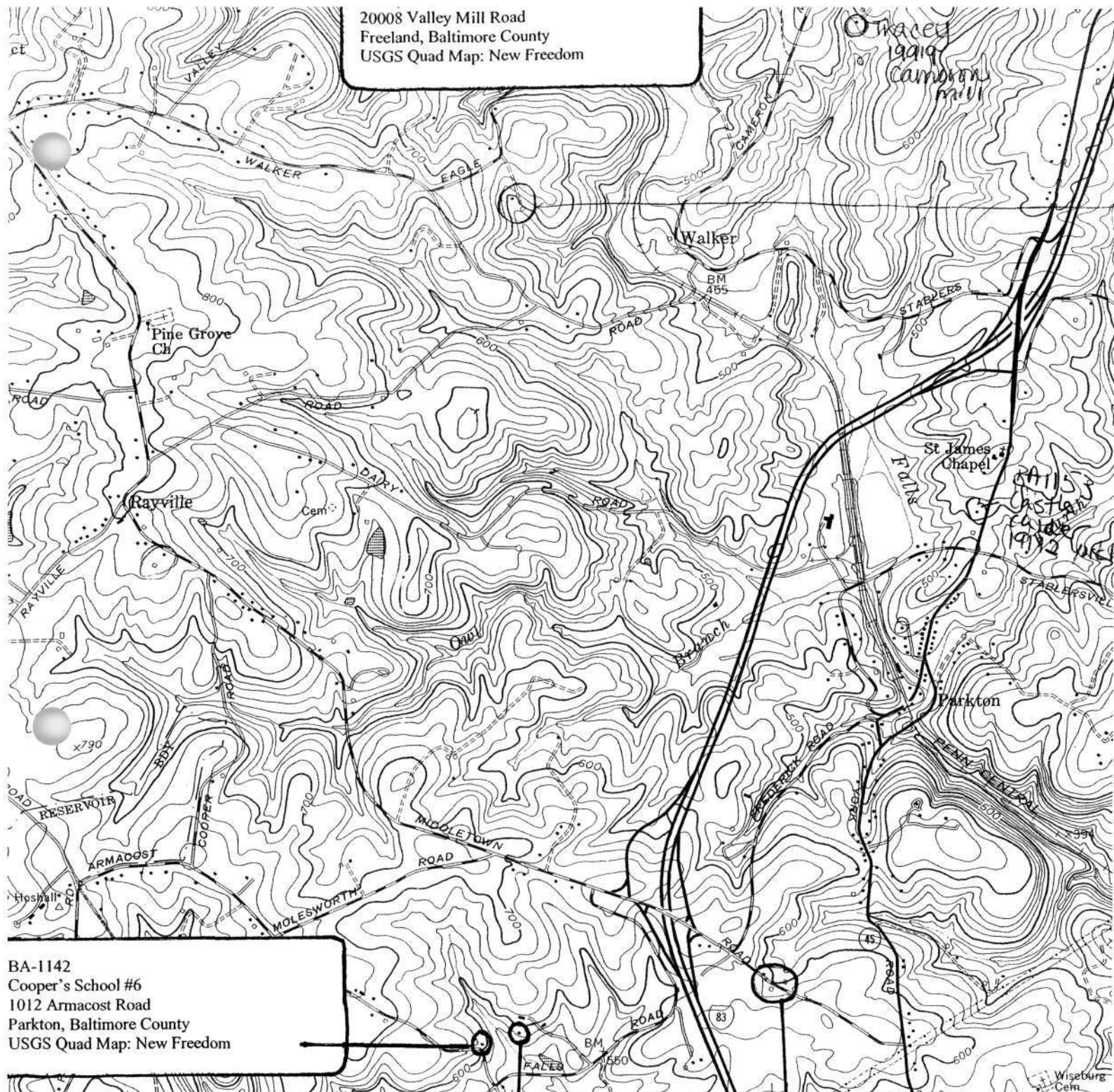
name/title	Laura Trieschmann and Christopher Novelli, Architectural Historians
organization	EHT Tracerics, Inc.
street & number	5420 Western Avenue
city or town	Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

Return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
410-514-7600

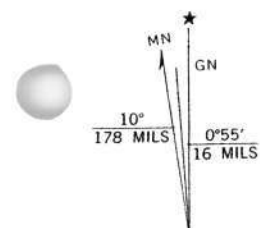
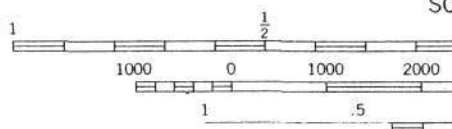
20008 Valley Mill Road
Freeland, Baltimore County
USGS Quad Map: New Freedom



BA-1142
Cooper's School #6
1012 Armacost Road
Parkton, Baltimore County
USGS Quad Map: New Freedom

BA-0911
Old Cooper House
1003 Old Barn Road
Parkton, Baltimore County
USGS Quad Map: New Freedom

BA-1206
Frederick House
18429 Middletown Road
Parkton, Baltimore County
USGS Quad Map: New Freedom



UTM GRID AND 1985 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
GRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



Revisions shown in purple compiled by the
Survey from aerial photographs taken 1974
information not field checked.



BA-1206

FREDERICK HOUSE

18429 MIDDLETOWN ROAD, PARKTON

BALTIMORE COUNTY

TRACERIES

1/00

MARYLAND SHPO

SOUTH ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTH

1 OF 6



BA-1206
FREDERICK HOUSE
18429 MIDDLETOWN ROAD, PARKTON
BALTIMORE COUNTY
TRACERIES

1/00

MARYLAND SHPO

EAST ELEVATION, LOOKING NW

2 OF 6



BA-1206

FREDERICK HOUSE

18429 MIDDLETOWN ROAD, PARKTON

BALTIMORE COUNTY

TRACERIES

1/00

MARYLAND SHPO

WEST ELEVATION LOOKING EAST

3 OF 6



BA-1206

FREDERICK HOUSE

18429 MIDDLETOWN ROAD, PARKTON

BALTIMORE COUNTY

TRACERIES

1/00

MARYLAND SHPO

BANK BARN AND CARRIAGE HOUSE, LOOKING NE

4 OF 6



BA-1206

FREDERICK HOUSE

18429 MIDDLETOWN ROAD, PARKTON

BALTIMORE COUNTY

TRACERIES

1/00

MARYLAND SHPO

WASH HOUSE, LOOKING NE

5 OF 6



BA-1206

FREDERICK HOUSE

18429 MIDDLETOWN ROAD, PARKTON

BALTIMORE COUNTY

TRACERIES

1/00

MARYLAND SHPO

HAY BARN, LOOKING SW

6 OF 6

BA-1206

FREDERICK HOUSE () - Before 1850 - 18429
Middletown Road (north side), 0.45 mile west of York Road, Parkton vicinity. Shown as M. Frederick's on 1850 map and as James N. Frederick's in 1877 and 1898 atlases. Two-story stone house close to road. Victorian style, with round-topped window in cross-gable peak. Square gable end windows in attic. Inside end-chimneys. Three bays wide in front; rear wing is two bays deep. Tin gable roofing. Windows are 6-on-6 sash types with green wood shutters. Small one-story entrance portico, flat-roofed, with square supporting columns. Several frame barns on both sides of road, including small drive-through barn on south side of road. Property well kept up. Good condition. Owner: